

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01696 030629Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

-----031230 127543 /10

R 021458Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7489

UNCLAS JIDDA 1696

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOSEPH DUFFEY FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBIT, NEW SAUDI NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

1. I HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF RIYADH (DR ABD AL-MALIK ABDULLAH AL-KHAYAL - A GRADUATE OF RUTGERS AND YALE) FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING, SELECTING, AND INSTALLING A NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBIT FOR NEW SAUDI NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LOCATED IN PRESTIGIOUS AREA OF RIYADH, (THE KINGDOM'S CAPITAL) NEXT TO THE GUEST PALACE FOR FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE WHERE SECRETARY VANCE STAYED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE KINGDOM.

2. THE DEAM IS IN CHARGE OF THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE ONLY MUSEUM OF THIS TYPE IN THE KINGDOM. HE IS DETERMINED THAT THE MUSEUM BE USED TO EDUCATE FUTURE SAUDI GENERATIONS ABOUT THE WORLD AS A WHOLE -- AND NOT ON SAUDI NATURAL HISTORY ONLY WHICH WAS THE ORIGINAL CONCEPTION BEFORE THE DEAN TOOK OVER.

3. THE DEAN HAS APPROACHED AMBASSADORS OF A NUMBER OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REQUESTING SIMILAR ASSISTANCE FOR PORTIONS OF THE MUSEUM RELATING TO THEIR AREA OF THE WORLD AND ALL HAVE RESPONDED FAVORABLY.

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4. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT SEEN THE BUILDING, A FORMER PALACE OWNED BY THE LATE KING SA'UD, I UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH AN EXHIBIT OF THE TYPICAL FLORA AND FAUNA OF NORTH AMERICA WILL NOT BE LARGE AND WILL PERHAPS CONSIST OF ONE LARGE EXHIBIT (BEHIND GLASS) CONTAINING APPROPRIATE LIFESIZE SAMPLES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS FROM ONE AREA OF THE US, IN THEIR NATURAL SETTING.

5. I WISH TO OFFER THE EXHIBIT AS A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE PEOPLE OF SAUDI ARABIA, WITH THE WORK TO BE PROVIDED BY EXPERTS FROM THE SMITHSONIAN WHICH, IN ALL PROBABILITY, HAS NECESSARY ANIMALS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN ITS STOREROOMS.

6. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD APPROACH THE SMITHSONIAN TO SEE IF SUCH A PROJECT IS POSSIBLE. IF SO, AN EXPERIENCED DISPLAY/INSTALLATION SPECIALIST SHOULD VISIT THE KINGDOM SOON TO DETERMINE THE EXACT SPACE AVAILABLE AND OTHER INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS. IF PROJECT ACCEPTED, WE WOULD BE MOST WILLING REPROGRAM ONE-THIRD (I.E. \$5,000) FROM OUR MODEST FY 77 CU PROGRAM ALLOCATION TO SUPPORT PROJECT. CU MAY ALSO HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE OF WHICH YOU MORE AWARE THAN I.

7. AM MOST EAGER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF REQUEST AS SAUDI ARABIA DOES NOT OFFER MANY EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH SUCH WIDESPREAD, AND PERMANENT IMPACT.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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